

Exhibit A

IBM Docket RSW920010103451

**Disclosure RSW8-2001-0136**

Prepared for and/or by an IBM Attorney - IBM Confidential

Created By: Jim Mathewson II Created On: 05/02/2001 12:46:30 PM  
 Last Modified By: Jim Mathewson II Last Modified On: 05/09/2001 09:59:55 AM

Required fields are marked with the asterisk (\*) and must be filled in to complete the form.

**\*Title of disclosure (in English)**

Time Sensitive Mail Events

**Summary**

Status Under Evaluation  
 Processing Location RSW  
 Functional Area Hom: WebSphere Connectivity & Edge Solutions  
 Attorney/Patent Professional Jeanine Ray/Raleigh/IBM  
 IDT Team Marcie Peters/Raleigh/IBM; John Hind/Raleigh/IBM  
 Submitted Date 05/08/2001 10:16:25 AM EDT  
 Owning Division AIM  
 Incentive Program  
 Lab  
 Technology Code  
 PVT Score 9

**Inventors with a Blue Pages entry**

Inventors: Jim Mathewson II/Raleigh/IBM, Keith Rafferty/Raleigh/IBM

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Mathewson II, J.M. (Jim)				
Rafferty, Keith A.				

> denotes primary contact

**Inventors without a Blue Pages entry****IDT Selection****\*Main Idea**

1. Describe your invention, stating the problem solved (if appropriate), and indicating the advantages of using the invention.

To be able to create e-mail, calendar entry or "to do" tasks that would be time sensitive. Today's e-mail allow you to make mail as urgent, however the only benefit to marking an e-mail urgent is that it moves up to the top of your in-box, but it still requires the receiver to open the mail. The problem with this technique is it doesn't take into consideration that if you don't open the e-mail in a timely manner, you might have missed the purpose of the e-mail. For example, if your manager sends you an urgent e-mail at 9:00 a.m. calling a 10:00 a.m. meeting and you don't get around to opening the e-mail until 11:00 a.m. then it's too late and is no longer urgent.

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2. How does the invention solve the problem or achieve an advantage (a description of "the invention", including figures inline as appropriate)?

It would be beneficial that if you could indicate the time sensitivity of the e-mail, calendar entry or "to do" task and if the user has the e-mail application running that it would come to the foreground, become the active window and the e-mail would automatically be opened and the user would be required to take an action before they could perform another task. Or/And send a page, phone message to the addressees. Actions may include updating status, acknowledgement (return receipt) or other valid actions. It would also be nice to provide a start time and an end time for the time sensitivity status so if in the example of the meeting, if it's over it could change from say urgent to something more appropriate like expired notification.

3. If the same advantage or problem has been identified by others (inside/outside IBM), how have those others solved it and does your solution differ and why is it better?  
Don't know anyone solving this problem.

4. If the invention is implemented in a product or prototype, include technical details, purpose, disclosure details to others and the date of that implementation.  
Not implemented

**\*Critical Questions (Questions 1-9 must be answered in English)**

**\*Question 1**

On what date was the invention workable? 01/01/2001 Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY  
(Workable means i.e. when you know that your design will solve the problem)